



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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North Dakota To Receive Additional Doses of Influenza Vaccine

Please note: The following information will be discussed at today's 11 a.m. media conference call. Dial-up information is available at www.nddohpressroom.gov/media/news/.

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health announced today that the state's public health system will receive about 23,000 additional doses of influenza vaccine, according to information received Tuesday from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Shipments of the additional doses are expected through January. Of the 23,000 doses expected in North Dakota, about 12,000 will be sent directly to the state's local public health units, with partial shipment expected within the next two weeks. The remaining 11,000 doses will be sent to the state health department for distribution to areas of need within the state.

The CDC has indicated that about 7 million doses of Aventis Pasteur influenza vaccine will be allocated throughout the country based on unmet vaccination needs of the nation's high-risk populations. Although the doses will help ease the vaccine shortage somewhat, the amount of vaccine still will be less than the amount needed to reach every person in the high-risk groups.

The North Dakota Department of Health is working closely with public and private providers to determine vaccine need throughout the state, according to State Epidemiologist Larry Shireley. "We are assessing each region of the state to find out where the pockets of unvaccinated high-risk people are located," Shireley said. "Once the vaccine arrives, we will have the ability to distribute the vaccine to where it is needed most in an effort to vaccinate as many high-risk North Dakotans as possible."

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

Because the vaccine continues to be recommended for high-risk populations, healthy individuals can help prevent the spread of influenza by taking these practical steps:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Keep your distance from others if you're sick.
- When possible, stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick, and don't send your children to day care or school if they are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often.

For more information, contact Larry Shireley, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378.

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Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.